

# MAINERS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

*Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for Mainers. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in Maine. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in Maine.*

## **INCOME: MAINERS ARE EARNING LESS TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO**

- In 2000, the median income in Maine was \$43,883.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2005, the median income in Maine was \$43,317, a drop of 1.3 percent.<sup>2</sup>

## **HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN MAINE CONTINUES TO BE A PROBLEM UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS**

- In 2000, Maine had 138,000 adults without insurance (10.9 percent).<sup>3</sup>
- In 2005, Maine had 143,000 adults without insurance (10.8 percent).<sup>4</sup>
- Maine had 30,654 children benefit from the SCHIP Program.<sup>5</sup> If funding is not restored by Congress to the SCHIP program, Maine will face a funding shortfall of \$550,000.<sup>6</sup>

## **EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN MAINE**

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in Maine was \$9,361.<sup>7</sup> In 2005, it was \$11,826, a 26 percent increase.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in Maine was \$22,689.<sup>9</sup> In 2005, it was \$28,371, a 25 percent increase.<sup>10</sup>
- Number of Mainers affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 14,429<sup>11</sup>
- Number of Mainers affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 17,185<sup>12</sup>

## **GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR MAINE RESIDENTS**

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in Maine was \$1.478 a gallon.<sup>13</sup>
- Today the average cost of gas in Maine is \$2.434 a gallon.<sup>14</sup>
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in Maine was \$2,141.<sup>15</sup>
- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in Maine is \$3,525, \$1,385 (64.7 percent) more than it was in 2001.<sup>16</sup>

## **SOCIAL SECURITY: MAINERS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY**

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in Maine – 265,470<sup>17</sup>
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in Maine – 805<sup>18</sup>

## **IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: MAINERS ON THE FRONT LINES**

- Number of Mainers killed in Iraq – 14<sup>19</sup>
- Number of Mainers wounded in Iraq – 135<sup>20</sup>
- Number of Mainers killed in Afghanistan – 4<sup>21</sup>
- Number of Mainers wounded in Afghanistan – 8<sup>22</sup>
- Number of Veterans in Maine – 143,726<sup>23</sup>

## **REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING MAINE'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS**

- Only 124 estates in Maine paid an Estate Tax in 2004.<sup>24</sup>
- Only 24 estates in Maine will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.<sup>25</sup>

## **CRIME: VIOLENT CRIME IN MAINE IS ON THE RISE**

- Number of Violent Crimes in State per 100,000 residents in 2000 – 109.6<sup>26</sup>
- Number of Violent Crimes in State per 100,000 residents in 2005 – 112.2<sup>27</sup>
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2002 – \$4,410,579<sup>28</sup>
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2006 – \$282,154<sup>29</sup>

## **TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST MAINERS**

**The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Mainers.**

- In 2001, the richest one percent of Maine residents each received an average of \$1,920 in tax cuts, while middle class Maine residents received only \$393.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2006, the richest one percent of Maine residents will receive an average of \$25,225 in tax cuts, while middle class Maine residents will only receive \$699.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of Maine residents will each receive an average of \$51,221 in tax cuts, while middle class Maine residents will only receive \$805.<sup>32</sup>

**The richest Mainers receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.**

- In 2001, the richest Mainers received 4.8 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 18.9 percent of the tax cut.<sup>33</sup>
- But, in 2006, the richest Mainers will get 22.9 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 11.2 percent of the tax cut.<sup>34</sup>

- And, in 2010, the richest Mainers will get 41.9 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 12.2 percent of the tax cut.<sup>35</sup>

### **Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Mainers.**

- In 2010, the richest Mainers will receive an average of \$9,137 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest Mainers will be getting over 39.6 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.<sup>36</sup>
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class Mainers will receive an average of \$68 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 6.0 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.<sup>37</sup>

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